

# THE GULL



GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOL. 89 NO. 1 JANUARY 2004

FOUNDED 1917

## Golden Gate Audubon's Front Lines of Conservation

**S**tart your New Year right. Join a Golden Gate Audubon Conservation Committee and become an environmental activist! Grassroots action is at the heart of Golden Gate Audubon's work. In fact, much of our conservation work is carried out by the volunteers who make up our four active Conservation Committees. Following is a brief overview of what the San Francisco and East Bay Conservation Committees are working on and how you can become involved. Watch for reports on the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge and the Latin America Committee in the February *Gull*.

### San Francisco Conservation Committee

Despite being a densely populated city, it's hard to find a richer bird habitat than San Francisco. Over 350 species of birds migrate through or reside in Golden Gate Park every year; 30,000 to 40,000 raptors migrate through the city annually; and tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl inhabit the city's shoreline during the migratory season. Our San Francisco Conservation Committee works hard to ensure that habitat for these wonderful creatures does not disappear from the city.

Pier 94, located just north of Hunters Point, is a degraded landfill which nature is reclaiming as a tidal wetland amidst the discarded steel rebar and concrete fill. Led by Ruth Gravanis, who discovered the area's potential, and Bob Bennett, Committee Chair, Golden Gate Audubon is working with the Port of San Francisco to restore this natural wetland. Golden Gate Audubon volunteers have begun cleaning up the site—hauling out hundreds of tires and other debris. Our volunteers also have labored in the mud to remove non-native cordgrass (*Spartina*), which is threatening to overtake thousands of acres of critical shorebird foraging habitat in San



Anne McTavish

Cleaning up the Presidio to make way for quail. See pages 10 and 11 for more photos from the Quail Restore-A-Thon.

CONSERVATION, continued on page 12

## New Network of Urban Chapters

**O**n a beautiful weekend in late October 2003, Golden Gate Audubon hosted representatives from eight large urban Audubon chapters from around the country to talk about our common interests and needs. This meeting was the first of its kind, and out of the gathering came a new organization: the Audubon Urban Chapter Network (AUCN). Our Executive Director, Elizabeth Murdock, and I represented Golden Gate Audubon.

Our intent was to explore issues of mutual and specific concern to Audubon chapters serving urban populations and to discuss whether establishing an ongoing coalition of urban chapters would be valuable. The answer was a resounding "yes."

Chapters represented were Seattle; Atlanta; Tucson; Houston; Portland, OR; Santa Clara Valley; New York City; and Golden Gate Audubon. The Board President and/or Executive Director attended from each chapter. An additional six chapters indicated a strong interest in participating but were unable to attend. In total, the group represented roughly 70,000 Audubon members.

The group discussed mutual concerns, challenges and solutions, focusing on four main topics:

- Fundraising, financial stability, and alternatives for urban chapter finances;
- Leadership in urban conservation issues, and connecting to other urban issues;
- Diversifying chapter membership and leadership;

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Society membership is \$20 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. Monthly meeting: second Friday in the West Bay; third Thursday in the East Bay, 7:00 p.m.

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URBAN CHAPTERS, continued from page 1

- What urban chapters need from the National Audubon Society, including ways to cooperate.

The group set three goals for the urban chapter network: to develop and sustain a peer network of urban chapters; to serve as a voice for common urban chapter concerns; and to continue to identify ways in which the AUCN can be a source of chapter leadership, foster strong urban chapters and encourage creative chapter partnerships.

The AUCN is intended to include local chapters affiliated with National Audubon Society that have roughly these characteristics:

- Serve a contiguous metropolitan area of approximately 500,000 population or larger;
- Have approximately 2,500 or more members;
- Have a paid staff or are actively working toward having staffed positions.

The AUCN invites similar, NAS-affiliated chapters to participate and welcomes inquiries from other chapters. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for New York City in early summer.

The last topic on our agenda was the relationship between Audubon chapters and the national office in New York. The group, as a whole, had extremely strong objections to efforts by the national office to bypass, or in some cases, ignore local chapters altogether in planning.

Several groups were concerned about NAS efforts to establish Audubon Centers around the country without first consulting the chapters that would be affected. Many felt that the national office has no interest in supporting chapters, and pointed out that dues-sharing has radically decreased and may disappear altogether next year. Considering the dedicated conservation efforts in numerous issues over many years, as well as essential environmental education work, the members of AUCN believe that Audubon chapters,



Miles McKey

Representatives from the Seattle, Portland, Atlanta, Tucson, Houston, New York City, Santa Clara Valley, and Golden Gate Audubon chapters take a break during the first Audubon Urban Chapter Network meeting.

both large and small, play a vital role in the total organization. (To learn more about Golden Gate Audubon's position on the chapter vs. national relationship, read my letter of October 28 to NAS Chair Carol Browner, posted on our website: [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org) (see "Chapter Activities").)

This newly formed network will be of great benefit to Golden Gate Audubon, as we grow our organization and strengthen the impact of our conservation and education programs. It is our hope that by sharing "best practices" and addressing common chapter concerns, the Audubon network will empower chapters to improve our own organizations and bolster grassroots wildlife conservation nationwide.

The great success of our kick-off AUCN meeting was due to the hard work of a number of Golden Gate Audubon members: Susanne Shields, Ann Howard, Kevin Consey, John Luther, Bob Risebrough, Susan Groves and Eric Anderson, Elizabeth Murdock, and my wife, Mary Ellen McKey.

Miles McKey, President

# Vote to Amend the Golden Gate Audubon Articles and Bylaws

**T**he Golden Gate Audubon Board of Directors approved in November revised sets of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation that reflect changes in the law and in our organization. Both also require membership approval to take effect. The Board is now asking members to approve the two revisions—**by completing, signing and returning the written ballot printed on page 11.**

## Articles of Incorporation

The “Articles of Incorporation” is the document filed with the California Secretary of State to maintain Golden Gate Audubon as a nonprofit public benefit corporation under California law. To update and replace the existing Articles, the Board has approved a revised set of articles, entitled “Articles of Incorporation of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.” It will also replace the existing “Constitution,” an outdated document no longer useful under California law.

## Bylaws

The Revised Bylaws approved by the Board will bring Golden Gate Audubon’s governing rules into compliance with current law and make a number of other changes designed to better meet our current needs. Among the proposed changes, the Revised Bylaws will:

- Incorporate many provisions of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law that took effect after Golden Gate Audubon’s existing bylaws were initially adopted.
- Specify a variable number of directors for the Board (from 11 to 23), with the exact number to be fixed by the Board. (Currently, there is no clear limit on Board size.)
- Continue the distinction between Elected Directors (those elected by the members) and Designated Directors (those selected by the Elected Directors), but require that there be at least one more Elected than Designated Director. (Currently, there is no limit on the number of Designated Directors.)

- Provide for staggered three-year terms for all Elected Directors. (Currently, their terms are from one to three years. The Designated Directors would continue to have one-year terms.)
- Provide for appointment of the Officers, rather than their election by the members.
- Prohibit proxy voting rights. (Neither the Board nor the members could use proxies.)
- Increase the number of members required to nominate candidates for Director in an election by written ballot.
- More clearly define two classes of members: National—those paying dues to National Audubon Society only, and Supporting—those paying local dues. (The two could receive different benefits, but all would have equal voting rights.)
- As permitted by law, authorize the Board alone to approve bylaw changes that would not materially affect member voting rights or make specified changes in board size, terms of Directors, etc., affecting members.

The full texts of the two proposed amendments—replacing the existing Articles of Incorporation and existing Bylaws—are posted on the Golden Gate Audubon website ([www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)) and are available by mail to members who call the office (510.843.2222).

A Golden Gate Audubon member in good standing may vote to approve or disapprove

the proposed amendments by completing and signing the form of ballot **printed on page 11** and returning it to the Golden Gate Audubon office (2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702) by the **ballot deadline—January 23, 2004.**

Under the existing Bylaws, 35 ballots are needed to meet the quorum requirement, and a majority vote for approval is necessary to approve each amendment.

## Update on Our 2004 Election

If Golden Gate Audubon members approve the Revised Bylaws in January, the new bylaws will govern the Spring 2004 election of Golden Gate Audubon directors. At the January 26, 2004 Board meeting (after the ballot deadline), the Board of Directors will schedule the election and determine the positions that will be on the ballot, in accordance with the bylaws then in effect.

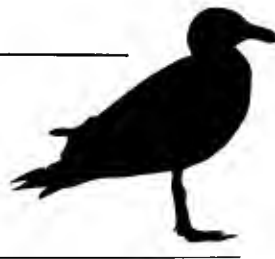
The Board’s decisions will be reported on the Golden Gate Audubon website ([www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)) following the January 26 meeting and in the March issue of *The Gull*. Members seeking an immediate report may call the Golden Gate Audubon office after January 26. The petition deadline for members to name candidates for the election ballot remains February 19, 2004.

## Education Program Secures Additional Funds

Golden Gate Audubon’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Environmental Education program received two additional grants in November 2003. The San Francisco Foundation has committed \$20,000 in funding to support the program, which connects East Oakland students with their local watershed and involves them in restoration efforts at Arrowhead Marsh. The San Francisco Estuary Project has awarded Golden Gate Audubon a grant of \$5,000 to support the program as well. Both The San Francisco Foundation and the San Francisco Estuary Project have provided vital funding to our Education Program over the past few years. Their support has helped Golden Gate Audubon develop innovative environmental education programs that teach diverse student populations about local wildlife and habitats, demonstrate how students’ actions can affect the health of the Bay and encourage students and their families to become active stewards of our environment.

# BACKYARD BIRDER

Meg Pauletich



**A**t the end of September in the late 1980s, Dick and I attended my niece's wedding in Washington D.C. Aware that Cape May, New Jersey was nearby, we planned a few days of birding at this famous spot, hoping to see one of their famous "warbler waves." As luck would have it, the birds were so scarce those two days that we were thrilled to find a flock of Rock Doves.

Our search for winged beauties took us to a beach at Delaware Bay where we picked our way through hundreds of reeking, dead horseshoe crabs. An article in the Summer 2003 issue of *Living Bird* (published by Cornell's Lab of Ornithology) described what we had seen and told of the ecological consequences of things gone horribly wrong.

The horseshoe crab is an unchanged remnant of ancient times—more than 350 million years ago. It is not a crab at all but is actually a close relative of spiders. Found from Maine to Mexico, the largest concentrations in the world occur near Delaware Bay. They spend their early lives in deep water, but when they are nine to 12 years old, they become sexually mature and migrate to shallow beaches. From late April through June, they arrive on the full- and new-moon highest tides. The larger female drags the attached male to the highest tide line. There she digs a shallow nest and deposits about 4,000 blue-green eggs which are fertilized by the male. She makes many trips to the beach, depositing up to 20,000 eggs. Many crabs are stranded upside down by waves and die of desiccation. That was what we were seeing and smelling months later.

This phenomenon has been going on for ages. It takes perhaps millions of crabs to create the egg wash-up and "slurry" at the tide line to feed the enormous numbers of gulls and shorebirds who feed upon the eggs. The eggs have poor nutritional value, so shorebirds need to eat a lot of them to put on weight. For centuries, birds have been timing their migration to coincide with the crabs' egg laying. Some fly from the tip of South America—for

example, Red Knots rely on this abundance of food to beef up before continuing on to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. At least 20 species of birds enjoy this feast.

In the early 1800s, Alexander Wilson, an early ornithologist, documented the huge shorebird concentrations on Delaware Bay. It wasn't until years later, in 1978, that a bayman and noted decoy carver reported to



Biologist Sheila Eyler tags a female horseshoe crab on Bowers Beach, Delaware

the Cape May Observatory that he had observed a lot of shorebirds in May. For 150 years they hadn't been there; the horseshoe crabs had gone from the bay. From the early 1800s to the early 1900s, crabs were harvested for fertilizer and hog food and their eggs used to feed chickens. Harvesting these "king crabs" was a big industry for Delaware Bay. So, in 100 years, they completely disappeared.

It seems we haven't learned from the past. There are major signs that the overharvesting of horseshoe crabs is happening all over again, but this time, the decline has occurred much more quickly—since 1978! It is estimated that 80 percent of the East Coast population of Red Knots stop off at Delaware Bay in spring to "refuel." They feed for 12 to 14 days, gaining back 50 percent of their body weight. This requires about 18,000 eggs per

bird per day! Red Knots have declined from a population high of 95,000 in 1989 to just 32,000 in 2002. This drop is due to the decline in horseshoe crab numbers. A ten-fold decrease in the crabs' egg numbers since 1990 is taking its toll.

There are several forces at work here. The horseshoe crabs were rediscovered not only by birders and scientists, but by crab harvesters. They are harvested for use as bait for conch and for American eels. This is a multi-million dollar industry, for which regulations were non-existent in the 1980s. It takes many years before the crabs are mature enough to breed, so they don't rebuild numbers quickly. If the crab harvest had been regulated from the beginning, the crabs stranded above the tide line would have been sufficient to support a local bait industry. Now, even with only 33 permits to collect crabs and with quotas, the numbers are rapidly dwindling. Fortunately, a few of the baymen have been persuaded to switch from crab harvesting to economically successful bird and nature tours in their boats.

Another use for the crabs is to provide the health care industry with blood for biomedical testing. Lysate, derived from the crabs' blood, is currently the only means for testing injectible medicines for purity and detecting several diseases such as spinal meningitis. By regulation, the bled crabs are returned to the water, yet mortality is estimated at seven to 10 percent. If horseshoe crabs are overharvested for bait, human health care could be severely jeopardized. There is some hope that with such high stakes, the health industry will become involved in dealing with the decline of the crabs. It is thought that a moratorium is probably the only way to save these prehistoric creatures.

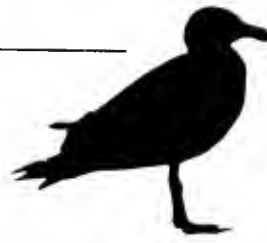
Jane Galetto, an active conservationist who lives on Delaware Bay says: "I just can't believe that after all we've learned, we're still using a cornerstone of the medical industry for bait!" We're not just talking birding and fishing economics here. We're talking about human health as well as the extinction of a species. And we're grinding them up for bait. It's now or never. Horseshoe crabs may have been around for 350 million years, but it's come down to us to do the right thing, and do it now. It's on our watch."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# PROGRAMS

Anne McTavish



You won't want to miss either of the January membership programs. We meet socially at 7 p.m. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information about upcoming events or detailed directions to either location, please see our web page. You may also check for updates online at [www.goldengateaudubon.org/Chapter/programs2003-2004.htm](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/Chapter/programs2003-2004.htm).

## San Francisco

San Francisco meetings are held in the County Fair building at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way. Directions are available online at [www.strybing.org/visiting/page2.html](http://www.strybing.org/visiting/page2.html).

### January 9

Jack Laws

*Sketching and Drawing Birds*

Have you ever wanted to augment your field notes with a quick field sketch of what you see or tried your hand at drawing birds in the field? Sketching is a great way to improve your birding skills and document your observations. It also is a delightful and rewarding activity in itself.

Join artist, naturalist, and educator Jack Laws for an evening of tips and demonstrations to help you start your own field journal of bird sketches and illustrations. We will begin with a basic four-step method for quickly sketching birds on the move and getting down the essentials before the bird flies away. Jack will also demonstrate tricks and tips to help with some of those tricky problem areas of bird illustration such as wings, feet and making the head look right. No drawing experience

is necessary. Bring a pencil, clipboard, and a pad of paper to draw.

## Berkeley

Berkeley meetings are held at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin). Directions are available at [www.northbrae.org/directions.html](http://www.northbrae.org/directions.html).

### January 15

Mark Bittner

*The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*

"In the spring of 1990 I saw something on San Francisco's Telegraph Hill that astonished me: wild parrots. I was so curious about their presence that I kept trying to get closer to them until finally I had them eating out of my hand. Thus began a friendship and study..."

Mark Bittner

[www.pelicanmedia.org/wildparrots.html](http://www.pelicanmedia.org/wildparrots.html)

Ornithologists refer to them as Red-masked Parakeets (*Aratinga erythrogenys*). Within the pet trade they are usually called Cherry-headed Conures. They are also called Red-headed Conures and Red-masked Conures. There is one other species of parrot in the flock: a Mitred Parakeet (or Conure) (*Aratinga mitrata*). There are also a fair number of Cherry-head/Mitred hybrids. And because the hybrids are fertile, there are now double hybrids as well.

The unique friendship and study have resulted in a detailed web page, a film, and a book (due to be released in January 2004). Please join us to hear Mark talk about the wild parrots of Telegraph Hill.

## Spring Birding Classes

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan and endorsed by Golden Gate Audubon Society will be starting February 3, 4, and 5, 2004. All classes meet from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. in room 307, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay Street. Free parking is available in the school lot off Bay Street on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area* and *Birds of Northern California*. He is also coordinator of the recorded *Northern California Birdbox* sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all lectures, and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, fourth edition, by the National Geographic Society. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* is recommended as an adjunct text for Ornithology II & III.

**Field Ornithology I** meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology, evolution and behavior. Part A (EA101) starts February 3 and ends March 16; Part B (EA105) starts March 23 and ends May 18.

**Field Ornithology II** meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American land birds, including waxwings, warblers, and tanagers. Part A (EA110) starts February 4 and ends March 17; Part B (EA115) starts March 24 and ends May 26.

**Field Ornithology III** meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of North American water birds including sandpipers and jaegers. Part A (EA120) starts February 5 and ends March 18; Part B (EA125) starts March 25 and ends May 20.

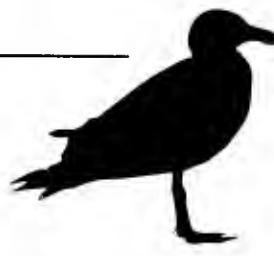
The instructor may arrange optional field trips on weekends. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them. Fees are \$115 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is strongly advised. For further information call 415.561.1860.

## San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

The 8th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival will be held on Mare Island from January 23-25. The festival celebrates the natural, recreational, historic and cultural treasures of San Francisco Bay. This three-day birding festival will offer walks, hikes, and tours of Mare Island and surrounding wetlands, nature-learning activities for children, presentations on conservation and more. Saturday activities are from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information, contact Myrna Hayes at [myrnahay@pacbell.net](mailto:myrnahay@pacbell.net).

# FIELD TRIPS

Susan Groves



## Birding for Kids at Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Saturdays, January 3 and February 7

San Francisco Nature Education Leaders: Nancy DeStefanis, Angie Geiger, Scott Walker; Strybing Arboretum Docent: Darin Dawson

415.876.5220, myblueherons@yahoo.com

9–11 a.m. Meet at the front gate of the Arboretum (9<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Saturday of the month bird and nature hike. For ages 7 and older. This is a bird and nature hike through the exciting micro-habitats of Strybing Arboretum. Arrive 15 minutes early to see exhibits—beaks, bones, feathers, nests. Each child should be accompanied by an adult. Please bring binoculars, small notebook and pencil. This trip will be offered every month September–April.

## Strybing Arboretum

San Francisco

Sunday, January 4 and February 1

GGAS co-leaders: Allan Ridley, Rick Ferrick; Strybing Arboretum Docents: Linda Lyons, Helen McKenna. 415.566.3241

Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several “micro-habitats” attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome.

## Birder/Kayakers Meeting

Berkeley

Sunday, January 4

Leader: Shirley Barker, 510.525.4663

An ad hoc meeting will be held at 11 a.m. at the Sea Breeze Café, Berkeley, for all interested boater-birders, especially kayakers. No sign-up necessary. Rain does not cancel. Café serves great food and coffee.

## Birding and Biking the Bay Trail

Albany to Richmond

Saturday, January 10

Leader: Jeffrey Black

510.526.7068 (no calls after 9 p.m.)

Meet at the old Middle School at 9:15 a.m. at the corner of Jackson and Buchanan in Albany for this half-day outing. We'll ride about 10-12 flat miles, stopping to view wintering shorebirds and ducks along the Bay, in wetlands and estuaries. Suitable for beginners. Rain cancels. Please wear a helmet.



## Palo Alto Baylands & Mountain View Shoreline

Palo Alto

Saturday, January 10

Leader: Dan Murphy

415.564.0074, murphsf@att.net

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet at the duck pond near the Baylands Preserve. The wetlands, marshes and open waters at Palo Alto and Mountain

View are among the most easily accessible sites for birders on San Francisco Bay. Levees and boardwalks overlooking the preserves make this an excellent spot to view 60-80 species which winter in the south bay. Ducks, shorebirds, waders, gulls, raptors and many more make this an ideal birding experience. Dress for cold, wet weather. If it has been raining, wear boots or waders since the levees can be muddy. Rain does not cancel. Bring lunch and liquids. Restrooms may not be available before 1 p.m. From Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto (just south of Dumbarton Bridge), exit at Embarcadero Rd. East. Stay to the right and be careful not to end up on the Oregon Expressway. Drive east over the freeway to the end of the street, turn left and continue to the duck pond on the left. We will meet in the parking lot immediately to the right of the gate (the gate itself is locked until 8 a.m.).



## Candlestick Point Bird Walk

San Francisco

Sunday, January 11

Leader: David Armstrong

415.305.7681, darmstrong99@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at the main Candlestick Point Recreation Area parking lot (off Donner Ave., opposite 3COM park) for this 3-4 hour bird walk. We will scan the bay, the shore and the land for ducks, shorebirds, loons, grebes and wintering landbirds. We will be walking 4-5 miles of mostly flat terrain. Wear good walking shoes and carry water. Bring a scope if you have one. Group size limited to 15 participants. Reserve with leader (email preferred).



## Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds

Marin

Sunday, January 11

Leader: Mark Eaton

415.566.6767, mweaton@pacbell.net

Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot. We will see wintering ducks and shorebirds, keeping in mind that anything can show up! Trip ends at noon. Beginners welcome.

Take Hwy. 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Rd. off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Rd. to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left.



East Bay drivers/riders meet at 7:30 at North Berkeley BART station.



Contact Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair, at 510.654.5954 or susangroves@att.net:

- if you can share a ride or if you need a ride,
- if you have difficulty reaching a leader and need information,
- if you have suggestions for trips, or
- if you are interested in leading a trip.

## key



Carpool



Entrance fee required



Biking trip

## Wednesday at the Marsh

Arrowhead Marsh, Alameda County

Wednesday, January 21

Leader: Courtenay Peddle, 510.532.8911

(no calls after 9 p.m.), [capeddle@there.net](mailto:capeddle@there.net)

Meet at the Arrowhead Marsh parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to spend a couple of hours studying the Clapper Rails that won't have anywhere to hide during the 8.23 foot high tide. Heavy rain cancels. Bring scope if you have one. All levels of birders welcome.

Take I-880 south to Hegenberger and then west on Hegenberger to Doolittle Drive. Right on Doolittle, right onto Swan Way. Left into MLK park. Drive to end for Arrowhead Marsh parking lot.

## Bodega Bay

Sonoma County

Saturday, January 24

Leader: Bob Lewis

510.845.5001, [Rlewis0727@aol.com](mailto:Rlewis0727@aol.com)

Meet at 9 a.m. at the corner of Eastshore and Hwy. 1 about 1 mile north of Diekmann's Store. We will begin by birding the rich Bodega Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many spots as time and birds permit. Bring lunch. We may bird until 3 p.m. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome.



## San Leandro Marina to Hayward Shoreline Regional Park

Alameda County

Sunday, January 25

Leader: Kathy Jarrett

510.547.1233, [kathy\\_jarrett@yahoo.com](mailto:kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com)

Bicycle and bird on the Bay Trail! Meet at 8:45 a.m. at San Leandro Marina Park for a 14-mile round trip excursion along a good bicycle path adjacent to San Francisco Bay. We will see birds on the bay, in the marsh, in the fields and aloft: Grebes, ducks, sparrows, shorebirds, herons and raptors. Bicycle helmet required. Dress warmly and bring lunch and liquids. Trip over by 2 p.m. Rain cancels.

From 880 in San Leandro, take the Marina Blvd. exit west 1.4 mi. and turn left onto Monarch Bay Dr. This road ends in 1 mile at the park. AC Transit bus #55 has its terminus here; these buses have bicycle racks.



## Lake Merritt

Oakland

Sunday, January 25

Leader: Joan Zawaski, 415.621.2424 (day),

510.530.2427 (eve), [Jzawaski@alnet.com](mailto:Jzawaski@alnet.com)

Meet at 9 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonnade. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range. This trip is recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Bring binoculars, scope and field guide. Trip ends at noon. Rain cancels.

## Cosumnes Preserve/ Woodbridge Road/Staten Island

San Joaquin County

Saturday, January 31

Leader: Rusty Scalf

510.666.9936, [rscalf@jps.net](mailto:rscalf@jps.net)

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor's Center. We should see winter riparian birds, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse as well as Cranes, Swans, Raptors and waterfowl, possibly Wood Duck and American Bittern. We can lunch at Wimpy's near Staten Island or birders can bring a lunch. Trip will end around 2:00. Beginners welcome. Be prepared for cold.

Take Interstate 5 to Twin Cities Road exit (about midway between Stockton and Sacramento). Take Twin Cities Road east to Franklin Blvd. Follow sign to Visitor Center. [www.cosumnes.org/map.htm](http://www.cosumnes.org/map.htm)



## Upper San Leandro Reservoir

Moraga

Sunday, February 1

Leader: Bob Lewis

510.845.5001, [Rlewis0727@aol.com](mailto:Rlewis0727@aol.com)

Meet at 9 a.m. in the Valle Vista Staging Area for this half-day trip. Grassy hills, pines, oaks and open water provide varied habitats for land birds and waterfowl. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome.

Take Hwy. 24 to Orinda and exit on Moraga Hwy. Continue approximately four miles to Canyon Road. Turn right at the traffic signal and continue 1.2 miles to the Valle Vista Staging Area on the left.



East Bay drivers/riders meet at 8:30 at Rockridge BART station.

## Hayward Regional Shoreline

Hayward

Sunday, February 1

Leaders: Pamela Llewellyn, 925.413.8329, [pllewellyn@kleinfelder.com](mailto:pllewellyn@kleinfelder.com); Michael Butler,

510.684.3375, [mjbkl@earthlink.net](mailto:mjbkl@earthlink.net)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the trailhead for a moderate 3-hour walk around Frank's Dump and Mt. Trashmore. Look forward to seeing many species of land, shore and water birds as well as a variety of raptors. Beginners welcome. Please bring binoculars and scope if you have one.

To get there, go south on 880 to Hayward, exit at Winton Ave West, go to the end of Winton and park at Hayward Regional Shoreline parking lot.



## Honey Lake and Greater Sage-Grouse

Lassen County

Saturday-Sunday, March 13-14

Leader: Dave Quady, 510.704.9353,

[davequady@worldnet.att.net](mailto:davequady@worldnet.att.net)

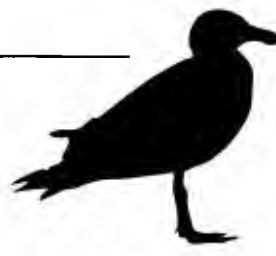
We will search Lassen County for Greater Sage-Grouse, Bald Eagles and other wintering birds of the Eastern Sierra. Trip is limited to the first 20 participants who sign up with the leader after January 30. Detailed directions will be provided to those who are confirmed on the trip. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is available in the Honey Lake State Wildlife Area. Be sure to bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and a scope if you have one.

## Part-time Position in Golden Gate Audubon Office

Golden Gate Audubon is seeking a part-time office assistant to work 12 hours a week, beginning in February 2004. Duties include assisting with member outreach, answering phones, responding to email, and managing our nature store. Facility with Excel is required; knowledge of computer databases and Quickbooks a plus. Please send a resume to the Golden Gate Audubon office, attention Elizabeth Murdock.

# OBSERVATIONS

November 1–30, 2003  
Bruce Mast



A first-winter Glaucous Gull made an appearance at Stow L on the 29<sup>th</sup> (DSi). A Nov 17<sup>th</sup> seawatch from Moss Beach produced an Ancient Murrelet (RST).

**I**n contrast to October's cool, dry weather, November days were short, gloomy, and wet—perfect weather for returning ducks. Plenty of interesting rarities kept birders busy, including up to five CBRC review species. But a rarity reported in the Oct. Observations column, a Bar-tailed Godwit in MTY, was later identified as an alternate-plumaged male Marbled Godwit.

## Loons to Ducks

Scattered reports of Red-necked Grebe came in throughout the month. Seawatches from Pigeon Pt, SM, turned up single birds on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (RST); Bodega Bay, SON, hosted 2 on the 12<sup>th</sup> (DH); and several dropped in at Berkeley Aquatic Park, ALA, on the 30<sup>th</sup> (TD). Thousands of Northern Fulmars were just offshore the first week of the month, with large flocks near Pigeon Pt, SM, (RST) and the Farallon Islands, SF (PP). Later in the month, beachcombers found dead Fulmars washed up along the coast as far south as San Diego, many dead of starvation. A Pigeon Pt seawatch on the 1<sup>st</sup> spotted a possible **Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*) (RST). Pigeon Pt also produced a Fort-tailed Storm-Petrel sighting on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (KG).

November hotlines regularly reported Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, Eurasian Wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, Tufted Ducks, White-winged Scoters, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and Hooded Mergansers. A Harlequin Duck has been a fixture at the Coyote Pt Marina, SM, since last summer (RST). A couple Long-tailed Ducks spent most of the month at Pescadero Marsh, SM (KG; mob). A female Long-tailed also turned up at the San Leandro Marina, ALA, on the 14<sup>th</sup> (KR). Another (or the same one?) just across the Bay frequented San Mateo / Foster City waters from Nov 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> (BP, LF; RST).

## Raptors to Alcids

On Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, a Sonoma, SON, birder was

treated to a probable Northern Goshawk, seen chasing pigeons (RR). Raptor watchers were more commonly treated to wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, and Prairie Falcons. Nov. saw the return of winter's extreme high tides, which drive rails and small rodents from the marshes. During the Nov 24<sup>th</sup> high tide at Don Edward's NWR (East Palo Alto, SM), Ring-billed Gulls enjoyed a feast of soggy mice. At least 1 Gull captured a Black Rail but was thwarted by 5 other Larid pursuers (RST).

On Nov 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 Pacific Golden Plovers joined the Killdeer foraging near the entrance to the RCA station at PRNS, MRN (RS; SD). Flocks of 200+ Mountain Plovers returned to the plowed fields of eastern SOL in Nov, where they were first reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> along Robinson Rd and Highway 113 (JW; mob). On the coast, a Rock Sandpiper was seen off of Bodega Head, SON, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (EL; DH). The Stilt Sandpiper at New Chicago Marsh in Alviso (SCL), first reported on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, lingered until Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> (DWe; BRe, FV). The same location yielded a Ruff on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> (BRe). The wave of migrating Red Phalaropes mostly passed through in Oct. but a few stragglers turned up Nov. 1–4<sup>th</sup> at bayside and coastal locations in ALA, SCL, SF, SM, and SON (mob).

As many as 9 Pomarine Jaegers were counted from sea watches off the SM coast Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> (RST). The Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> seawatch, from Moss Beach, also found a Parasitic Jaeger (RST). Bayside, a Franklin's Gull turned up at Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and remained in the company of 3 Bonaparte's Gulls through the 27<sup>th</sup> (BB; MRo, PSu, MB). On Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, a juvenile Kumlein's **Iceland Gull** (*Larus glaucoides*) was well studied at the mouth of Frenchman's Cr in Half Moon Bay, SM, but not seen thereafter (JMK).

## Doves to Thrashers

On Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 Burrowing Owls in Brentwood, CC, held out in the face of pending development of their parcel (anon.). In Sunnyvale, SCL, another Burrowing Owl was seen monitoring a construction project from its perch on the surrounding chain link on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> (Lisa Myers). On Nov 14<sup>th</sup> a Barred Owl was heard calling just outside of Pt Reyes Station, MRN (RS). The Nov 1<sup>st</sup> hawk watch from Hawk Hill, MRN, reported a Short-eared Owl (Tim Behr, BP; mob).

Starting Nov 14<sup>th</sup> a **Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cynanthus latirostris*) brought birders flocking to a backyard in Sonoma, SON (KP; mob). A Costa's Hummingbird joined the Broad-billed on Nov 25–27<sup>th</sup> (KP, JS). The Sept.–Oct. irruption of Lewis's Woodpeckers mostly abated this month but 4 passed over Hawk Hill, MRN, on the 11<sup>th</sup> (SB) and 2 lingered through Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, SCL. (LC; mob). The last week of Nov., a juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was repeatedly observed foraging in the eucalyptus canopy in Tilden RP, CC (SHa; mob). A first-winter



Rock Sandpiper Flock

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



male Red-naped Sapsucker made it to a Mill Valley, MRN, garden on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> (WL).

The first 2 weeks of the month witnessed a mini-invasion of Eastern Phoebes. In SM, they were reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> from Verde Rd (RST) and Nov 13-16<sup>th</sup> at the Phipps Ranch, near Pescadero (KG; RC, GD). In MRN, single birds were sighted Nov 1-11<sup>th</sup> at White House Pool, Inverness Park, MRN (HK; RS, DB, JR) and on the 8<sup>th</sup> at Olema Ranch Campground (GP). In SON, an Eastern Phoebe turned up in Bodega on the 9<sup>th</sup> (EH).

Observers in MRN reported 2 Tropical Kingbirds near the Bolinas Boat Docks on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> (KH) and another near Limantour Estero, PRNS, on the 12<sup>th</sup> (JC). A Townsend's Solitaire made a rare appearance at Hayward RS, ALA, on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> (BR). Finally, a Sage Thrasher spent the week of Nov. 5-11<sup>th</sup> near Dagnino Rd, N of Livermore, ALA (JSe, GB; mob).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

A single Red-throated Pipit lingered through the 2<sup>nd</sup> with American Pipits near Moss Beach, SM (RST). Rare but regular, a female Summer Tanager visited Sutro Heights Park, SF, on Nov 16-24<sup>th</sup> (MBI, AC; MU, PMC, BF). Much rarer, a first-year female **Scarlet Tanager** (*Piranga olivacea*) was reported from the Farallon Is., SF, on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> (PP).

Through Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, a Green-tailed Towhee was a regular visitor to a residence in Pescadero, SM (JMu; MH). SM produced 2 reports of Clay-colored Sparrows this month: on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Montara flower fields (AJ) and on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Half Moon Bay (RST). On Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at the South SF Marsh, SM (KO).

Swamp and White-throated Sparrows showed up throughout the region in Nov. At least 2 Harris's Sparrows also found their way to the Bay Area, showing up in backyards in Muir Beach, MRN, on the 12<sup>th</sup>



Scarlet Tanager

(JW), and in Berkeley, ALA, on the 30<sup>th</sup> (JP). Dark-eyed "Gray-headed" and "Slate-colored" Juncos made 1-day appearances in the area: the former at El Polin Spring in the Presidio, SF on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> (ASH; PS); the latter in a Palo Alto, SCL, yard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (LC). At least 4 Lapland and 3 Chestnut-collared Longspurs continued through Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at the former landfill, colorfully known as Mt Trashmore, at Hayward RS, ALA (BR; mob). Two Lapland Longspurs were also seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> near the Spaletta (C) Ranch, PRNS, MRN (SD). On Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, a **Snow Bunting** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) was found along the lava flow on the coast at Sea Ranch, SON (JP). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak dropped in at a private residence in the East Richmond Heights, CC, on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> (AK).

Flocks of 60-100 Tricolored Blackbirds were reported at horse stables in Montara, SM, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (AJ) and at Calero Res, SCL, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (AV). The only other Tricolored sighting this month was a single bird at Bayfront Park, SM, on the 27<sup>th</sup> (RF). On Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 female Great-tailed Grackles were seen loitering at the Coyote Cr Golf Club in San Jose, SCL (MM). On Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, an adult male Orchard Oriole visited a Cole Valley, SF, backyard (PS). Two Cassin's Finches were identified by their call notes as they flew over Hayward RS, ALA, on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> (BR).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>		
11/19	Robertson Park, Livermore, ALA	AEd
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>		
11/1	San Pedro Valley Park, SM	BN
<b>Palm Warbler</b>		
11/1	Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN	KK
11/2	Montara, SM	AJ
11/7	Crissy Fields, SF	HC
11/8	Charleston Slough, SCL	BB;
	MRO,	MM
11/10-24	Presidio, SF	JWa; BP
11/11	Spaletta (C) Ranch, PRNS, MRN	RS
11/23	Half Moon Bay, SM	RST
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>		
11/3	Rancho San Antonio, SCL	JLi
11/13-16	Phipps Ranch, Pescadero, SM	KG; GD
<b>Canada Warbler</b>		
11/2	Coyote Hills RP, ALA	TM

**Abbreviations for Observers:** DA, David Armstrong; BB, Bill Bousman; DB, Dennis Braddy; GB, George Bing; KB, Ken Burton; MB, Michael Burns; MBI, Marianne Blair; PB, Patricia Braddy; SB, Steve Bauer; AC, Alfredo Contreras; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; LC, Les Chibana; RC, Roy Carlson; ADM, Al DeMartini; GD, Gary Deghi; JD, Jim Danzenbaker; SD, Steve Davies; TD, Ted Duffield; AE, Al Eisner; AEd, Art Edwards; LE, Leo Edson; BF, Brian Fitch; LF, Leslie Flint; MF, Mike Feighner; RF, Rich Ferrick; RFI, Robbie Fischer; KG, Kirk Gentlen; SG, Steve Glover; ASH, Alan Hopkins; DH, David Hofmann; DaH, David Hamilton; DeH, Denise Hamilton; EH, Ed Harper; KH, Keith Hansen; LH, Lisa Hug; MH, Merry Haveman; SH, Steve Hucklebone; SHA, Steve Hayashi; AJ, Alvaro Jaramillo; AK, Alan Krakauer; HK, Harrison Karr; KK, Keith Kwan; CL, Cindy Lieurance; CDL, Calvin Lou; DL, Don Lewis; EL, Eric Lickwood; JL, John Luther; JLi, Jim Liskovec; LL, Les Lieurance; RL, Robin Leong; WL, William Legge; DM, Dan Murphy; DMa, Dean Manley; JM, Joe Moran; JMu, Janet Murphy; PMC, Pat McCulloch; JMK, Justin McKee; KMK, Kevin McKereghan; LM, Lisa Myers; MM, Mike Mammoser; PM, Peter Metropulos; TM, Tim Mouter; BN, Bess Nerricio; KO, Kris Olson; BP, Bob Power; GP, Gary Potter; JP, John Poole; JPe, Jeff Perkins; KP, Karen Palmer; PP, Peter Pyle; BR, Bob Richmond; BRe, Bob Reiling; KR, Kathy Robertson; JR, Jean Richmond; MR, Mark Rauzon; MRO, Mike Rogers; RR, Ruth Rudesill; DS, David Suddjian; DSi, Dan Singer; ES, Emilie Strauss; ESe, Emily Serkin; JS, John Sterling; JSe, Jeff Sea; PS, Paul Saraceni; PSu, Patti Sutch; RS, Rich Stallcup; RSc, Rusty Scaff; RST, Ron Thorn; MU, Myra Ulvang; AV, Ann Verdi; DVP, David Vander Pluym; FV, Frank Vanslager; AW, Alan Wight; AWi, Adam Winer; DW, Denise Wight; DWe, Dave Weber; DWi, Dave Wimpfheimer; GW, Gerry Weinberger; JW, Jim White; JWa, Jeff Wall; JY, James Yurchenco; MZ, Matt Zlatunich

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listers; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; BBA, Breeding Bird Atlas; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; Cr, Creek; Cyn, Canyon; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L, Lake; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; N., North; NAP, Napa; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; Pt, Point; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; RP, Regional Park; Rd, Road; Res, Reservoir; RS, Regional Shoreline; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve

# A Glorious Day for Quail

On a balmy Saturday in mid-November, more than 75 volunteers enjoyed a rare opportunity to help bring back a species that has all but disappeared from San Francisco. California Quail once numbered in the thousands in the city. Large numbers were recorded in the 1930s, and quail were frequently sighted as recently as the 1980s. Today, there are fewer than 100. Gardening practices in our parks—removal of low brush and shrubs—have significantly reduced their habitat. In response, Golden Gate Audubon has launched a program to bring California Quail back to San Francisco, led by San Francisco Conservation Committee member Alan Hopkins. We held our first quail restoration effort on November 15, as teams of volunteers removed exotic plants and planted native quail food sources along the Harding Park Golf Course and at the Presidio.



(top) Volunteers planting native plants (from left to right) Christopher Campbell, SF Recreation and Parks Dept, volunteer preparing the ground for plants at Harding Park; Alan Hopkins; Damien Raffa, Presidio Trust, carries native seeds for planting.

## Donations

Thank you for your generous donations, which included the Save the Quail Campaign and its first ever Restore-A-Thon, along with our many other conservation, education and member activities!

### Peregrine Falcon (\$500 to \$1000)

Afton Crooks (*Education*), Frank & Janice Delfino (*FAWR*), Diane Ichiyasu, Robert Bennett & Elizabeth Shih (*Quail*)

### Least Tern (\$200 to \$500)

Sonia & Alex Alland (*Quail*), J. Ashley Ferry, James C. Gaither (*Quail*), Pat Kline\*, Pansy Kwong (\* & general operating fund), Robert A. & Hannelore Lewis\*, Miles & Mel McKey (*Quail & Large Urban Chapter Conf. dinner*), Mona Mena

### Clapper Rail (\$100 to \$200)

Wayland B. Augur\*, Barbara Anderson (*Quail*), Janet Beeler, Betty Berenson\*, Martha Breed (# & *Quail*), Emma Brown, Patricia E. Coffey\*, Cornelia A. Foster\*, P. L. Gotchall, Ruth & Jim Gravanis (*Quail & general operating fund*), Susan Hampton, Mr. & Mrs. Totton Heffelfinger, Helen Heller (*Quail*), Mr. Keelung Hong, Renee Margolin\*, Jane Maxwell, Nolo Press and Staff (*Quail*), Nancy Reynolds, Allan Ridley

(*Quail*), Jay & Lisa Pierrepont\*, Donald A. Reinberg\*, Dale Sickles MD, Edward F. Walsh\*, Linda L. Watts, William F. Weeden, MD

### Gifts (to \$100)

George Almeida, Sharon Anderson, Richard Angilly, Mrs. Olive L. Bavins, Marlou Belyea, Justine Bennett (*Quail*), Kathryn Blake (*Quail*), Kay Bloom (*Quail*), Nick Bonnell (*Quail*), Heather Borman (*Quail*), Veronica Brauns, Mary G. Burke, Cindy Charles (*Quail*), Loring Dales (*Quail*), Adrienne DeBisschop (*FAWR*), Barbara Dengler\*, Pieter J. De Jong, Linda Dolan, John Dukat, Lynne Eggers (*Quail*), Carol Ekberg, Michele Elliott (*Quail*), Deirdre Elmansoumi (*Quail*), Roland Feller, Leslie Friedman (*Quail*), Roberta Guise, Robert N. Hall, Mr. Werner Hertz, Robert L. Himbarger, Elizabeth Hook\*, Don Hopkins (*Quail*), Katherine Hughes, Jean E. Jackson, Christine Johnson\*, The Johnson & Schaeffer Family, Michael & Shirley Kelly (*Quail*), Rob Kirby (*Quail*), Helena Kirkwood\*, Lisa W. Kroeber, Elizabeth Land (*Quail*), Benson H. Lee, Roy Leggitt (*Quail*), Connie & Jerome Lenoir, Anton Lethin (*Quail*), Dr. Harry J. Levin, Curtis Lim (*Quail*), Grace MacNeill, Ms. Barbara M. Margolis, Joseph Peter Mark, Brian McCarthy (*Quail*), Sylvia McLaughlin, Amy McManus, Ida McPartland, Robert D. Mullaney, Mikiye Nakanishi (*Quail*), Cordelia Neal (*Quail*), Morton D. Paley, Courtenay Peddle (*Bird Box*), Wendy Pelton, Susan Peters (*Quail*), Mr. Robert R.

Piper, Cora Pitcock (*Quail*), Kaoru T. Reynolds, Daniel J. Richman\*, Mrs. Bette I. Roberts-Collins, Phila Witherell Rogers, Mary Evelyn Rose (*Quail*), Marc Rumminger (*Quail*), Ellen D. Scanlan, Mary Schaefer (*FAWR*), Lucy Sidener, Mary Small, Janet Wentworth Smith, Lucille Smith (*Quail*), Philip Smith, Frances & Joy Somerville (*Quail*), Craig & Jane Spriggs\*, Nina Steidl, Lynn Strandberg (*Quail*), Marilyn Trabert, Yulling Tsai (*Quail*), Glen Van Lehn (*Quail*), Rachel Watson-Clark, Mrs. Robert S. Watson\*, C. Wildsoft, Esther S. Wilkman, Mark & Caroline Yeager (*Quail*), Evelyn Zavala

### In-Kind (Save the Quail Restore-A-Thon)

Judith Lowry of Larner Seeds, Bolinas:  
Prizes – autographed "Gardening With a Wild Heart" book, wildflower seeds and quail garden sculpture  
Noah's Bagels, 3351 Lakeshore Ave, Oakland:  
Bagels  
Peet's Coffee & Tea, 2916 Domingo Ave, Berkeley: Coffee  
Rainbow Grocery, 1745 Folsom Street, San Francisco: Snacks

### Gift Membership

Jeannine Zenti from Roberta Guise

\* With Golden Gate Audubon Supporting Membership  
\* Latin America Committee 2004 Panama Bird Trip



photos by Anne McTavish

(clockwise from top left) Mel McKey and friend at Harding Park, Don Heyneman and a young volunteer; a volunteer at the Presidio, Betty Berenson and friend digging at Harding Park; Arthur Feinstein and Elizabeth Murdock with Dan McKenna and Elizabeth Goldstein of SF Recreation and Parks Dept.

We were unable to get every volunteer's name due to press deadlines, but we thank all of our hard-working volunteers.

## Thank Yous

Golden Gate Audubon extends a special thanks to all who were involved in this effort. Thanks to Elizabeth Goldstein and Dan McKenna of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and Steve Schroeder, General Manager of Harding Park Golf Course, we had over 250 seedlings to plant. Damien Raffa and the Presidio Trust provided leadership, tools and plants to keep more than 50 volunteers busy for a full half-

day. Peet's Coffee, Rainbow Grocery and Noah's Bagels contributed food and drink to our hard-working teams.

Extra special thanks go to volunteers Alan Hopkins and Jenn Rosenberg, who organized the event. And a huge thank you to everyone who sponsored a quail worker or donated directly to our first ever Quail Restore-a-Thon. Betty Berenson and Alan Hopkins won awards for bringing in the most pledges. We have received more than \$3,200 in donations, which

will support our Save the Quail campaign's conservation and restoration efforts.

## How You Can Help

The next planting day at Harding Park Golf Course will be in late January or early February. Contact the Golden Gate Audubon office to join our restoration team and to be notified of future quail restoration events. You will receive an email or postal mail to notify you of quail restoration opportunities.

## BALLOT

Please see "Vote to Amend the Golden Gate Audubon Articles and Bylaws" on Page 3 for a detailed explanation.

Please complete and sign this ballot and return it to the Golden Gate Audubon office by the ballot deadline—**January 23, 2004**. Ballots received by that deadline will be counted in accordance with the choices specified.

I approve the proposed amendment of the **Articles of Incorporation** and repeal of the **Constitution**.

☐ Yes ☐ No

I approve the proposed amendment of the bylaws.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Print Name

Signature

Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

CONSERVATION, continued from page 1

Francisco Bay. After the concrete and rebar fill are removed and tidal circulation improved, our volunteers will help create a complete habitat at Pier 94 that will provide sustenance and a home for both water birds and land birds—and maybe even a rabbit or two.

### East Bay Conservation Committee

The City of Oakland is proposing to develop the shoreline south of Jack London Square. Part of this shoreline—around the mouth of the Lake Merritt Channel, south to Clinton Basin—is valuable wildlife habitat. Our Committee succeeded in convincing the city to include wetland restoration and wildlife habitat in its master plan for the Lake Merritt Channel. Now, new development proposals may be ignoring this part of the plan. We are working to ensure that the wetlands are preserved and restored.

The Eastshore State Park planning process was a great success for nature. Much of the park's upland area has been designated solely for activities such as hiking and picnicking. But as the plan is implemented, we need to make sure that these are the only uses actually developed. We also must support State Parks and the East Bay Regional Parks District to get adequate funding to manage this large urban park.

### How You Can Help

We're looking for more volunteers for our Conservation Committees! The San Francisco Conservation Committee meets the first Monday of every month at 7 p.m. Currently, we meet at members' homes. The East Bay Conservation Committee meets the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Gate Audubon office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G, in Berkeley (near Dwight Way). The Committee Chair is Jacqui Smalley. For more information, call Arthur Feinstein at 510.843.6551.

## What You Need to Know

### What do committee members do?

We ask that committee members attend committee meetings and become informed about conservation issues. We also hope you will help us take action on specific issues when needed.

### What does "take action" mean? What does a conservationist do?

We research issues, write letters, attend and testify at meetings and hearings, and meet with planners and decision makers. Our role is to voice the environmental positions of Golden Gate Audubon. We also organize wildlife habitat cleanup and restoration projects, and do "hands-on work," pulling invasive weeds, planting native seedlings, and creating new habitat for threatened wildlife.

### I want to be involved, but I can't make it to the meetings. How can I help?

Golden Gate Audubon offers a variety of volunteer conservation opportunities, from habitat restoration events to wetlands monitoring to "arm-chair activism." To get involved, contact Jenn Rosenberg (jrosenberg@goldengateaudubon.org) at the Golden Gate Audubon office.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*The GULL* is the official newsletter of Golden Gate Audubon Society. As a supporting member of Golden Gate Audubon, you receive a subscription to *The GULL*, a 10 percent discount on all items purchased at our nature store, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Local members of the National Audubon Society automatically receive *The GULL*. Not a member yet? Contact our office at 510.843.2222 for details.

### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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